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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, are the Government aware that passengers find it very difficult just to take their seats, as the conductors blow their whistles even before they sit?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, what we call the 'running time' is fixed by an actual survey in which test routes are taken by the vehicles and the time taken for running from one place to another together with the requisite stops at the stopping places, is also taken into account. It is not unlikely that on some occasions some conductors may be a little hasty in blowing their whistles. But as a general rule, the Government have taken all these into consideration in fixing the running time.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, are periodical instructions issued to conductors that they should not give this trouble to passengers? Is there any Welfare Officer to look into complaints?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes. There is the Public Relations Officer who looks into all these complaints. If hon. Members would write to the Public Relations Officer, their complaints will be enquired into. But may I make one point on this occasion? We receive a number of complaints from passengers. Without their names and addresses, it is very difficult to verify the complaints. Therefore, if people want to make any complaints against the Government Transport, they can write to the Public Relations Officer, giving their names and addresses.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, is any action taken against the conductors who just take the vehicles to the stand before the appointed time?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If it is proved, they will not only be punished, but they will also lose their jobs.

3-10 p.m. * 67 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether a box for 'used tickets' is provided in each City Transport bus ; and

(b) whether this box for 'used tickets' is used by passengers?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) Boxes for 'used tickets' are provided in some of the State Transport buses.

(b) These boxes are not generally used by the passengers.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are these boxes kept there to see that tickets are not thrown in the buses, or are they kept for any other particular purpose?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : These boxes are provided for passengers and the general public to throw their used tickets into them. But, as I said, they like to throw them outside rather than into the boxes.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is there any proposal to take away these boxes?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We shall provide the facility and leave it to the public to use it properly.

Polytechnic School

* 68 *Q.*—SRI L. S. KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for opening a polytechnic school at Shencottah and if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No.

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR : May I ask, in view of the fact that more than Rs. 35 lakhs has been allotted for this particular area of the transferred territory and there was a proposal in the Second Five-Year Plan to have a polytechnic there, why it has been dropped and why the answer is in the negative?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The answer is in the negative because Government have decided to establish three new additional polytechnics in the Third Five-Year Plan in other places. So far as this district is concerned, Tirunelveli has two polytechnics and, therefore, it is considered not necessary to have one there.

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR : In view of the fact that nothing has been done for this particular area of the transferred territory, will the Government consider, if not a polytechnic, at least something else like an industrial school for Shencottah?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Member may write a letter to the Ministry.

Agricultural Pumpsets

69 *Q.*—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the minimum guarantee charge for consumption of electricity in the case of agricultural pumpsets in Darapuram and Palladam taluks of Coimbatore district has been reduced, and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to reduce the minimum guarantee charge for consumption of electricity in the case of agricultural pumpsets in Paramathi and Chinnadarapuram areas in Karur taluk?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes. With effect from 1st April 1960 the special minimum guarantee for agricultural pumpsets in these taluks was reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 35 per h.p. per annum, in view of their economic backwardness with particular reference to the growth of electric power in the area.